



California Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
DONALD KOCH, Director



August 10, 2009

ALL CALIFORNIA MARINE OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN HOLDERS:

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some California regulations regarding the notification and documentation of oil spill drills and the new spill response requirements in the Santa Barbara Channel.

The Office of Spill Prevention and Response's (OSPR) oil spill contingency planning regulations require that all plans be exercised and tested annually. In order to receive credit for drills conducted, plan holders must meet existing specific notification and documentation requirements found in sections 820.01 (d) and 820.01 (f) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

Section 820.01(d) requires plan holders to provide advance notification to OSPR **30-days** before any drills are to be conducted. These drills are then placed on OSPR's In-State or Out-of-State Drill Calendar, located on OSPR's website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/about/exec/index.html>. The intent of this requirement is to permit staff to schedule their attendance at drills in a timely manner, allowing OSPR to participate in as many drills and exercises as possible. If notification is not received within this time frame, a plan holder will not be allowed to receive credit for a drill or exercise. Section 820.01 (f) (1-10) requires plan holders to submit drill documentation after a drill has been conducted. The documentation is required in order to assist OSPR's Drill Coordinators in evaluating and assessing drills. Accordingly, no drill credit requests can be approved until the required documentation is submitted, accompanied by a completed Request for Credit form.

Timely and complete information will enable OSPR staff to attend more drills and to issue drill approval letters promptly. Please send your drill notifications and requests for credit to Charlena Hayes, Department of Fish and Game, OSPR, 1700 K Street, Suite 250, Sacramento, CA 95811 or via e-mail at crhayes@ospr.dfg.ca.gov

Regarding response capabilities in the Santa Barbara Channel area, effective on July 1, 2009, more restrictive on-water recovery (skimming) response time frames have now taken effect. Thus, your marine oil spill contingency plans must reflect this capability. Specifically, this equipment is required to be on-scene within six hours for vessels that transit within three miles of the shore in the Santa Barbara Channel. This generally applies to vessels in the southbound shipping lane as they pass the southern tip of Santa Cruz Island and Anacapa Islands. These requirements are found in sections

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818.02 and 827.02 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. Please contact your rated Oil Spill Response Organization to ensure that your vessel(s) are in compliance with this requirement if your vessel(s) intends to navigate through the Santa Barbara Channel.

The regulations cited above may be accessed at OSPR's website, at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/law>, "Index to OSPR Regulations" link. Current versions of the Request for Credit and the Exercise Notification Form may be downloaded at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/reg_com/forms/drills/drills-and-ex-forms.html.

If you have any questions regarding drill requirements, please call Ms. Barbara Foster of the Drills and Exercises Program at (916) 327-9406 or contact via e-mail at bfoster@ospr.dfg.ca.gov. For questions regarding response capability requirements, please contact Mr. Chris Klumpp of OSPR's Readiness Unit at (916) 322-1195 or via e-mail at cklumpp@ospr.dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Edinger
Administrator

Enclosures